

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 MC-02 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 /080 W

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P R 210630Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6651

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7422

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PK, PO, MASS, US

SUBJ: PAK INTEREST IN DAPHNE SUBMARINES

1. MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
AZIZ AHMED ASKED TO SEE ME TODAY AND THE SUBJECT TURNED
OUTTO BE THEIR DESIRE TO PURCHASE THREE
DAPHNE FRENCH
SUBMARINES FROM PORTUGAL. HE SAID THIS MATTER HAD BEEN
UNDER DISCUSSION FOR A LONG TIME. PORTUGAL APPARENTLY
WOULD LIKE TO SELL THE THREE SMALL SUBMARINES IN ORDER TO
OBTAIN LARGER ONES. PORTUGAL HAD APPARENTLY TOLD THE PAKS
THAT THEY WOULD GO NO FURTHER IN NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL AFTER
THE NATO MEETING IN MAY WHERE THEY WOULD PROPOSE THAT
PORTUGAL HAVE BIGGER SUBMARINES IN THEIR FLEET.

2. AZIZ SAID THAT AFTER THE ABOVE NATO MEETING THERE
WERE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN ADMIRAL CRUZ, CHIEF OF
NAVAL STAFF FOR PORTUGAL, AND THE PAK CHARGE IN LISBON.
CRUZ HAD APPARENTLY TOLD THE CHARGE THAT NATO APPROVAL
HAD NOT BEEN SECURED FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THESE THREE
PORTUGUESE SUBMARINES FOR LARGER ONES. HE APPARENTLY
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SAID THAT THE U.S. THOUGHT THAT PORTUGAL SHOULD CONTINUE

WITH THEIR PRESENT SIZE DAPHNE'S. CRUZ HAD SAID, HOWEVER,

THAT, IF THE PAKS AGREED, HE WOULD TALK TO U.S. NAVAL OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON ON THIS SUBJECT ABOUT JULY 10 WHEN HE WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON IN ANY EVENT FOLLOWING THE BICENTENNIAL CEREMONIES. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD MENTION PAKISTAN'S INTEREST IN BUYING THESE THREE SUBMARINES AND SEEK U.S. APPROVAL. HE SAID HE THOUGHT HE COULD MAKE A FAIRLY

GOOD CASE AS PAKISTAN'S NAVY WAS SO SMALL AS TO BE PRACTICALLY INSIGNIFICANT, AND THAT IT WAS A MEMBER OF CENTO, ETC. HE SAID HE WOULD TELL OUR OFFICIALS THAT PORTUGAL WOULD LIKE TO SELL THESE VESSELS AND THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD MAKE SENSE FOR PAKISTAN AS THEY ALREADY HAD THREE DAPHNE'S IN THEIR INVENTORY. HE ALSO APPARENTLY SAID THAT THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS SALE WOULD ENABLE PORTUGAL TO BUY FURTHER EQUIPMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES TO MEET ITS OWN MILITARY REQUIREMENTS.

3. AZIZ SAID THEY HAD PASSED THE WORD TO CRUZ IN THE BEGINNING OF JULY AND THEY WOULD APPRECIATE SUCH AN APPROACH ON HIS PART TO OUR NAVAL OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. AZIZ ASKED IF I WOULD DO WHAT I COULD TO SEE THAT THE U.S. RAISED NO OBJECTION TO THIS TRANSACTION.

4. I TOLD AZIZ THAT I WAS ACUTELY AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF THE PAK NAVY BUT SAID I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND FROM WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME HOW AND TO WHAT EXTENT THE U.S. WOULD BE INVOLVED IN SUCH A TRANSACTION. I SAID IT WOULD SEEM WE MIGHT BE INVOLVED TO SOME EXTENT BECAUSE OF THE NATO ASPECT, BUT I DID NOT KNOW THE EXTENT TO WHICH NATO MEMBERS ADDRESSED THEMSELVES TO THE SPECIFICS OF EACH MEMBER NATION'S PARTICULAR INVENTORIES. I SAID I KNEW WE WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IF THE DAPHNE HAD U.S. COMPONENTS AND ASKED IF HE KNEW WHETHER THAT WAS THE CASE OR NOT. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW THE ANSWER TO THIS, AND COULD ADD NO FURTHER LIGHT AS TO WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THE NATO MEETING IN MAY. I ASKED HIM IF THERE WAS ANY QUESTION AS REGARDS FRENCH APPROVAL. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO AS THEY WERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION FROM THE PORTUGUESE THAT FRENCH WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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HAVE NO OBJECTION.

5. LATER IN THE DAY, I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH NAVAL CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SHARIFF. HE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THE STATES AND WHILE THERE SPOKE WITH PORTUGUESE CNO. SHARIFF SHED MORE LIGHT ON PROBLEM BY EXPLAINING PORTUGUESE HAVE TOLD PAKS THEY ARE WILLING TO SELL PN DAPHNE SUBS, BUT LISBON MUST FIRST BE SURE IT CAN

OBTAIN REPLACEMENT SUBMARINES FROM THE U.S. SHARIFF SAID
HE WAS NOT SURE WHETHER PORTUGAL NEEDS NATO COUNCIL PERMISSION
TO SELL SUBMARINES TO PAKISTAN, BUT HE WAS REASONABLY CERTAIN
LISBON DID NOT WANT HIATUS IN ITS SUBMARINE FORCE BETWEEN
TIME DAPHNES SOLD TO PAK NAVY AND REPLACEMENT SUBS
OBTAINED FROM U.S.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT
CAN SUPPLY IN THIS CASE, SINCE I TOLD AZIZ AHMED I WOULD
REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO WASHINGTON AND ASK FOR GUIDANCE
AS TO WHAT REPLY I COULD GIVE HIM.
BYROADE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, SUBMARINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ISLAMA07422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760280-0372
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760738/aaaabgro.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAK INTEREST IN DAPHNE SUBMARINES
TAGS: MASS, PK, PO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006